(e) by when M/s. HPC Limited propose to start issuing the second LPG cylinders at Fazilka?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BRAHM DUTT): (a) There is one LPG distributor functioning in Fazilka with a consumer population of 3049 as on 28.2.1987. 1070 applications are pending with the distributor which are likely to be released by June, 1987, in a phased manner.

(b) Owing to heavy backlog in supply of refills in the State, the Hindustan Petroleum Corporation had temporarily suspended release of new LPG connections in December, 1986. The release has since been resumed in the Punjab, including Fazilka.

(c) The average demand and supply of LPG refills in Fazilka during the last six months was around 2240 and 2000 cylinders per month respectively.

(d) The present supply position in Fazilka is comfortable.

(e) The Corporation expects to release second cylinders in Fazilka in the third quarter of 1987-88.

Price of Crude in International Market

83. SHRI D. B. CHANDRE GOWDA: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the price of crude in the international market is firming up;

(b) whether it is also a fact that India has to pay nearly Rs. 4800 crore on import of oil and petroleum products during the next financial year;

(c) whether Government will bear such a heavy burden;

(d) whether Government propose to intensify indigenous production of crude than the imports; and

(e) if so, the reaction of Government thereto in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BRAHM DUTT): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) In view of the fluctuating market, it is too early to estimate at this stage the size of the import bill for the next financial year.

(d) and (e) The steps taken to increase the production of crude oil in the country and to minimise the import bill include intensification of exploration, use of enhanced recovery techniques, induction of advanced technology and purchase of crude oil and petroleum products at the most favourable terms.

Export of drugs

84. SHRI MAHENDRA PRASAD: Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether any fresh steps have been taken to boost the export of drugs; if so, what are the details thereof; and

(b) whether under these measures permission for manufacturing the drugs which have not yet been cleared for marketing in India but are being marketed in other countries has been given for export purposes?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF CHEMICALS AND PETRO-CHEMICALS IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY (SHRI R. K. JAICHANDRA SINGH):

(a) Yes, Sir. The following incentives have been offered by the Government to boost export of drugs and formulations:—

(i) Advance licences under the duty exemption scheme and import licences are issued to various exporters against definite export orders.

(ii) In order to provide stability for the growth of exports, a scheme has been introduced for the registration of contracts.

(iii) Special provisions have been made for 100 per cent export oriented units.

(iv) A scheme has been introduced to provide duty free import of raw materials against REP licences issued on exports of specified products. The scheme is applicable to all registered exporters exporting the product specified. REP licences issued under the scheme are freely transferable like other REP licences.

(v) A producer exporter gets additional facility provided for under Import-Export Policy.

(vi) Rationalisation of duty structure for bulk drugs *vis-a-vis* intermediates.

(vii) Supply of raw material at reasonable prices of export production.

(viii) Inclusion of bulk drugs under EXIM bank commodity credit scheme.

(ix) With a view to boosting exports, an Export Promotion Group has been constituted.

(b) Manufacturing permission for such drugs are given in Export Promotion Zones.

Ratio parameters of drugs

85. DR. H. P. SHARMA: Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose any revision in the ratio-parameters for import, production and export of drugs;

(b) if so, what are the details thereof;

(c) by when the same is proposed to be made applicable;

(d) whether it is also a fact that in the past, drug industry took inflated figures of ex-factory value of production of bulk drugs for computation of other relevant parameters; and

(e) if so, what steps have been taken to check the correctness of ex-factory cost of production of price of exempted bulk drugs in the absence of cost data?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF CHEMICALS AND PETRO-CHEMICALS IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY (SHRI R. K. JAICHANDRA SINGH): (a) Under the new policy recently announced the ratio-parameter between the ex-factory value of bulk drug production to that of formulation has been revised. However, the ratio between the value of consumption of indigenously produced bulk drugs and that of imported bulk drugs would continue to be 2:1 for 100% export production ratio parameter norms do not apply.